

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB284:
“An Act Increasing the Age from Eight to Eighteen Years for an Income-Eligible Person to Obtain Medical Assistance Regardless of Immigration Status”

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Dr. Maryellen Flaherty-Hewitt and I am from a pediatric primary care office in New Haven, CT. I am also part of Yale Medicine/Yale New Haven Health System.

I stand in support of SB284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in making sure our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we all need and deserve. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

My work as a pediatrician at the New Haven Primary Care Consortium enables me to care for children from all over the New Haven region of Connecticut. My goal is to provide equitable health care for all children and I work with amazing colleagues that strive to do the same. All children deserve high quality healthcare without the worry of lack of insurance coverage. We are facing a tremendous mental health crisis in our children in this pandemic recovery era. This crisis affects all children regardless of immigration status and in order to have an impact, we must be able to provide equitable health care- both medical and mental- to all children and expanding HUSKY to include immigrants to the age of 18 is critical.

I support S.B. 284 ,and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all community members in CT regardless of age or status.

Thank you for your time,

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